

Architects' Building

415 Brainard

Local

State

State Marker

National ✓ 5/4/95



Architects' Building

Historic Overview:

The Architects' Building was erected in 1924, and was affective in bringing architectural professionals and trades under one roof. This use is noteworthy because Detroit was experiencing a tremendous population growth, and thus a building boom. (The population of Detroit rose 113 percent from 1910 to 1920.) The Architects' Building provided a one-stop shop for architectural services, and in 1925 housed twenty-five companies. The architect of this seven story Neo-Classical commercial building, Richard H. Marr, was known in the Detroit area for high-class residential design.

The original owner and sole proprietor of the Architects' Building was Thomas J. Thompson, a man identified with the hotel and restaurant trade, as well as the wholesale and retail of meats. After Thompson's death in 1927, the Architects' Building remained in his estate until 1936 when it was lost to foreclosure.

The Great Depression took its toll on the Architects' Building. By 1932-3, only three of the original architects were left. Many offices lay empty. The building's association with the building arts ended sometime after 1940. In 1950, the building was referred to as the Contractor's Storage Building. It was connected by a concrete block addition to the building at 3627 Cass when this neighboring building was constructed in the 1950s. The entire property was sold to the Salvation Army in 1974 and to Cass Corridor Neighborhood Development Corporation in 1985.

